

**MUSIC UP**

**WIDE SHOT OF [NAME], A  
DISABLED VET DRIVING A VAN  
TOWARDS HIS SPECIALY  
ADAPTED HOUSE. HE ENTERS  
THE DRIVEWAY AND GETS OUT  
OF HIS VEHICLE. AFTER HE  
TRANSFERS FROM HIS  
VEHICLE TO HIS WHEELCHAIR,  
HE BEGINS SPEAKING – WHILE  
ROLLING UP TO THE FRONT  
DOOR OF HIS HOME.**

**VET INTRODUCES HIMSELF  
AND ENTERS WITH EASE INTO  
THE FRONT DOOR.**

**Hello, I'm [name of vet](or my name is). Like you, I  
am a disabled veteran. (Maybe insert brief statement  
of how vet was disabled.) This is my new home  
(newly constructed home or home which I had built  
X# of years ago and) which is adapted for wheelchair  
accessibility. I received a grant from the Department  
of Veterans Affairs that included features that have  
allowed me to use, and even enjoy, my entire home.  
Thanks to the VA, my quality of living has been  
greatly improved. Come on in and let me show you  
around so you can see what a difference this has made  
for me.**

**The VA Specially Adapted Housing grant is a one-time benefit that assists 100% service-connected, disabled veterans in securing barrier-free housing and maintaining independent living. The grant program is administered by the Loan Guaranty Division at your local VA Regional Office. A Special Housing Agent will visit with you soon and provide more details of how this program works and answer any questions you may have.**

**BEAUTY SHOT OF VET IN THE  
FAMILY ROOM - VET PAUSES**

**Before the Special Housing Agent visits you, (name of other vet) and I would like to give you an overview of this grant program, which offers up to a maximum grant of \$43,000. As I just mentioned, your Special Housing Agent will be out to visit with you soon. Hopefully, this video will help you better understand how the grant program works and also help you to prepare specific questions for your agent when he or she visits.**

**CHYRON  
SAH BENEFIT IS A GRANT  
NO PAYBACK  
NO TIME LIMIT  
USE ANYWHERE  
BUILD A HOME  
REMODEL A HOME**

**In the next few minutes, we will explain the steps necessary to receive the Specially Adapted Housing grant. To begin with, let's review some specifics of the grant. The Specially Adapted Housing Program is a grant - it's not a loan, so you will not have to pay it back. (Emphasize)**

**There is no time limit and it may be used anywhere in the United States and its territories and possessions, including Puerto Rico.**

**HOME MUST BE WHEELCHAIR  
ACCESSIBLE**

**It may be used to build a wheelchair accessible home or remodel most existing homes, if they are determined by VA to be easily adaptable.**

**REDUCE EXISTING MORTGAGE**

**You can even apply the grant to reduce your existing mortgage balance, provided your home is already adapted and meets Specially Adapted Housing grant program requirements.**

**MUST HAVE CLEAR TITLE**

**You must also have a clear title to the property where the grant will be used - but (emphasize), regardless of which method you choose in using your grant, your entire home must be made wheelchair accessible.**

**FREEDOM TO CHOOSE**

**Your freedom of choice is very important!**  
**(Emphasize) Although you must include all specially adapted features, VA gives you the freedom to choose the style of home, the builder, the lender, and designer or architect.**

**ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS  
MORTGAGE LIFE INSURANCE**

**And finally, with the approval of the grant, you may even be eligible for Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance**

**of up to \$90,000. Your Special Housing Agent can provide you with additional information on that program.**

**VET MOVING TOWARDS THE  
BACK DOOR**

**To ensure your home is fully accessible, the Specially Adapted Housing grant program has specific design and building requirements.**

**TWO ENTRANCES**

**To begin with, your home must have at least two exits from the house, both of which are wheelchair accessible and preferably on opposite sides of the house. This will allow for a quick exit from anywhere in the house in the event of an emergency.**

**VET ROLLING DOWN WIDE  
HALL AND INTO THE MASTER  
BEDROOM**

**All interior doors and hallways must be wide enough to allow clear passage of a wheelchair.**

**GETTING AROUND WITH EASE  
FLOOR COVERINGS**

**Floor coverings are a primary consideration in any home design to allow for easy wheelchair maneuvering. Low pile carpeting or hardwood flooring are easy to roll on.**

**VET MOVES TO MASTER BATH**

**VET TURNING ON BATHROOM**

**LIGHT, MOVES TO THE SINK**

**AND SHOWS HOW EASY IT IS**

**TO TURN ON THE WATER,**

**MANEUVER IN AND OUT OF**

**THE ROLL- IN SHOWER, ETC.**

**A bathroom designed to "fit" the veteran for**

**wheelchair access is one of the main features of the**

**grant. The bathroom must be designed to allow a full**

**turning radius and have wheelchair access to the**

**toilet, vanity, and roll- in shower stall. Adequate**

**grab bars must also be installed and the floor**

**coverings must be slip resistant when wet, to permit**

**ease of wheelchair maneuvering.**

**VET STARTS MOVING TOWARD**

**THE GARAGE WHILE SHOWING**

**LOCATION OF LIGHT**

**SWITCHES AND PASSES LOW**

**LEVEL WINDOWS**

**In new construction, the electrical outlets and light**

**switches must be accessible from a wheelchair.**

**Windows should also be operable from a wheelchair.**

**VET ENTERS THE GARAGE**

**VET PAUSES IN THE GARAGE**

**Now, let me show you the attached garage (type of**

**garage available). Your garage should be large**

**enough to access your vehicle from a wheelchair. If**

**your garage is not attached to the house, a covered**

**passageway with adequate overhang for protection**

**against the weather should be provided.**

**CAMERA SHOWS DOORS AND**

**LIGHTING IN OPERATION**

**The garage door should be oversized to accommodate**

**larger vans. And, automatic garage door openers are**

**a must and should be connected to a garage light**

which operates in conjunction with the doors opening and closing.

THEN MOVING TO THE  
KITCHEN - BEAUTY SHOT WIDE  
AREA AND GO TO CLOSE UP TO  
SHOW APPLIANCES AND  
CABINETS (IF ADAPTED) AND  
VET ACCESSIBILITY - CAN  
DEMONSTRATE HOW HE CAN  
COOK, WASH DISHES AND  
REACH EVERYTHING.

The kitchen must be large enough to allow wheelchair access and if you wish to help prepare meals and cook, incorporate labor-saving devices to improve efficiency, safety, ease of use and maintenance.

EXITING OUT OF THE HOUSE  
THROUGH THE KITCHEN  
DOOR, VET DEMONSTRATES  
MANEUVERING AROUND THE  
HOUSE TO THE WALKWAY  
LEADING BACK TO THE FRONT.  
(IF AVAILABLE - POINTS OUT  
GARDEN/FLOWER BED OR  
OTHER LANDSCAPE THAT HE  
HELPED PLANT)

(Note should be made of ease of transition over the low threshold as vet exits house) Like most of you, I enjoy being outside. As you can see, low thresholds make exiting your home very easy.  
  
Being able to move around outside is just as important as the inside of your home. All ramps and walkways should be designed to accommodate any level change and for safe wheelchair maneuverability. Curbs and handrails may be necessary.

VET PAUSES AND SPEAKS

I can remember when I first became disabled. I never thought I would ever need a fully accessible home.  
  
Now that I'm getting older (or now that my

disabilities are forcing me to use my chair for longer periods of time), I'm having to rely more on adapted features. So, keep in mind, when you are designing a specially adapted home, it is important to consider your present and future needs.

There are many things to consider when deciding how to use your grant. Your Special Housing Agent will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of new construction and remodeling.

TRANSITION SHOT OF VACANT  
LOT WITH AGENT HOLDING  
CLIPBOARD AND TAKING  
NOTES

If you choose to *build* a home, you will need to select a lot that is relatively level, has adequate drainage and convenient to medical facilities, public services, and shopping. After you select a site, VA will make an inspection of the lot to determine if it is suitable for construction of a specially adapted home.

MUSIC AND CHYRON  
TRANSITION; BEAUTY SHOT OF  
VET IN A WHEELCHAIR - IN  
FRONT OF A REMODELED  
HOME

Hello, I'm [vet's name](or my name is). Unlike (other vet's name), I used my grant to remodel my existing home. I decided, based on my personal circumstances, that remodeling my home would be best for me. My Special Housing agent inspected my home and determined that it was suitable for remodeling.

**SHOW SCENES OF VET HAVING  
DIFFICULTY MANEUVERING  
AROUND THE FRONT STEPS (?),  
OVER A HIGH TRANSITION  
ENTERING HOME, ETC.**

**I am very pleased with the results and since I've had time to maneuver and use all the features recommended by VA, I can see the importance of including each one. I no longer have to worry about scuffing up the door frames, or struggle just to simply get into my home, and I can't believe how much room I now have in my new bathroom. Taking advantage of this VA benefit has made it much easier for me to handle my daily activities.**

**Remember, remodeling is an option under the Specially Adapted Housing grant program. If you choose to remodel your home, your Special Housing Agent will inspect your home and determine if it is feasible to remodel. If so, a report will be issued outlining all adaptations that you must make.**

**TRANSITION TO A HOUSE NOT  
SUITABLE FOR REMODELING**

**As I mentioned earlier, remodeling is an option under the grant program. Remember, any style of house is acceptable, including condominiums and town homes. Unfortunately, all homes are not suitable for remodeling. Here is an example of a house that would be very difficult to remodel. As you can see, the height of the floor level above the ground and the steep sloping lot would make wheelchair access very difficult. Narrow door openings and long narrow hallways are often difficult to widen for wheelchair accessibility. Older and smaller bathrooms many times preclude expansion to provide for the required**



wheelchair turnaround area. Needless to say, remodeling such a home would be very expensive and far from an ideal design.

**TRANSITION TO REMODELED  
HOME**

As you can see, VA must approve your plans and specifications for both new construction and remodeling. After the plans are approved, you are required to obtain and submit three construction bids for consideration. VA will review these bids for content and cost, but you will make the final decision as to which contractor you wish to use. After you choose the contractor, the following information must be provided to your Special Housing Agent:

**VET AND AGENT GOING OVER  
PLANS - PAPERWORK**

**PART I OF APPLICATION**

A final application form with Part I completed. The Special Housing Agent will help you complete this form.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Finalized Plans and Specifications.

**SIGNED CONTRACT**

A signed contract, that is subject to VA approval.

**ABILITY TO PAY**

Evidence of funds to pay any closing costs that exceed the \$43,000 grant.

**LENDER'S COMMITMENT**

A copy of the lender's commitment to finance, if you need to obtain a loan to cover the portion of cost not paid by the grant.

**GOOD & MARKETABLE TITLE**

Evidence that you have, or will acquire, good and marketable title to the property.

**VET AND AGENT DOING  
PAPERWORK**

**Your contractor, lender and real estate broker can assist you in securing the necessary exhibits for grant approval. Once your grant has been approved, your Special Housing Agent will order a check and arrange to deposit the grant funds into an escrow account, so when the time comes, funds will be available to pay the cost of construction or remodeling.**

**INSPECTOR INSPECTING  
HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION  
OR REMODELING, (for a nice  
touch, plans rolled up under his  
arm) WHILE CHECKING OFF  
ITEMS ON CLIP BOARD**

**A VA compliance inspector will be assigned to inspect the construction or remodeling to assure the work is being completed in accordance with your approved plans and specifications. The final funds for the project will not be released until VA has determined that your home has been completed and fully adapted. The VA compliance inspector will make this determination and provide reports to the VA office.**

**CHYRON**

**Remember, there are several factors involved in processing your Specially Adapted Housing Grant.**

**VA APPROVED APPLICATION**

**You are now eligible for this benefit; but the grant application must be approved by your local VA Regional Office.**

**HOME MUST BE FULLY  
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

**The home must be made fully accessible to a wheelchair.**

**YOU OWN OR INTEND TO BUY  
THE HOME**

**The grant can only be used on a home you own or  
intend to purchase.**

**VA ASSISTANCE IN  
APPLICATION**

**One thing is for sure, your Specially Adaptive  
Housing Agent will be there to assist you in all aspects  
of the grant application.**

**BEAUTY SHOT OF VET AND  
FAMILY - ALL SMILES  
WIDE SHOT OF HOME  
FADE MUSIC OUT**

**Most veterans are concerned that this process will  
take an extremely long period of time; when in fact, it  
takes no longer than if you were building or  
remodeling a typical home. The time needed will  
depend on how long it takes you to obtain and submit  
all required exhibits to VA. Keeping VA informed,  
and following instructions given by your Special  
Housing Agent, will help this process move more  
smoothly and quickly.**

**START CLOSING WITH  
APPROPRIATE MUSIC IN THE  
BACKGROUND & GO BACK  
WITH A BEAUTY SHOT OF 1<sup>ST</sup>  
VET, LETING HIM CLOSE OUT  
THE REMAINDER OF THE  
VIDEO (perhaps with camera  
focused up close to him then begin to  
back away to get a wide angle view  
of his home. Fade in with a VA logo  
to end.)**

**Your Special Housing Agent will contact you to set up  
a time when he or she can visit with you in your  
home. Remember to consider all your options and  
prepare your questions ahead of time. This program  
is a benefit that will help you gain more independence  
and be more in control of your every day living  
activities. A house designed for independent living  
can change your life - and that's the way it should be.  
Personally, I can say, thanks to the VA Specially  
Adapted Housing Program, the quality of my life is  
much better.**